



Letter to:

Local Development Associations, Residents Associations, Tidy Towns Groups and the Environmental Groups

Dear Community Partner,

In 2022, we view regular news stories of extreme heatwaves, wildfires and droughts on the one hand and intensive flooding, glacier melting and sea level rise on the other hand. The global loss of biodiversity continues at an alarming rate and consequently, the erosion of the foundation of social and economic progress.

Maybe we need to read this quotation from Martin Luther King Jr. a few times to be shaken to the reality of the impacts of Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss.

Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable. We are faced now with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history there is such a thing as being too late...We may cry out desperately for time to pause in her passage, but time is deaf to every plea and rushes on. Over the bleached bones and jumbled residues of numerous civilizations are written the pathetic words: Too late

Martin Luther King Jr. 'Where do we go from here: chaos or community

Living in hope and failing to make the substantial changes needed to secure the wellbeing of future generations will inevitably mean it will be 'too late'.

Wherever you and your community are in County Tipperary, the Public Participation Network (PPN) have determined that your wellbeing is influenced by the following six themes and how communities work can, together, work to develop them:

- (1) Environment and Sustainability – Nature sustains us and we must conserve it for future generations.
- (2) Health – ‘your health is your wealth’, including your mental health.
- (3) Work, economy and resources – contented employment and efficient use of natural resources.
- (4) Social and Community Development – inclusive and for the good of all.
- (5) Participation, Democracy and Good Governance – all voices are being heard and contribute to fair decisions.
- (6) Values, Culture and Meaning – cultural heritage, respect for diversity.

Governments, policy makers and society, in general, are striving to create low carbon lifestyles and to move towards a circular economy, while at the same time building biodiversity across all sectors. All stakeholders must do their fair share and work together/collaborate for people, the planet and the economy.

Local Development Associations, Residents Associations and Tidy Town groups will need to adopt Nature Based Solutions, grow local organic food, enhance/build biodiversity, protect the natural resources of Soil, Water and Air. They will need to create short supply chains and a circular economy to make waste a resource. Consumption will need to be guided by a moral compass that will direct us towards equity, fairness and best ecological practice.

North Tipperary Development Company (NTDC) is a not-for-profit, community focused local development organisation, providing a wide range of services in North Tipperary. We provide a nurturing, helping hand to people and communities to enhance their quality of life through a range of supports including rural enterprise, social inclusion, economic development, employment, energy and community development.

North Tipperary Development Company, under the Rural Development Programme Environmental Themes, is very keen to assist Local Development Associations, Residents Associations and Tidy Town Groups to become more Climate Resilient, to audit their strengths and weaknesses, adopt a holistic approach, identify innovative solutions and to support Community Development that embraces social inclusion, economic activity and enhancement of the environment.

The Rural Development Programme funds Community Projects under the three themes of Economic development, Social Inclusion and the Environment at the following rates:

Capital expenditure: 75%

Feasibility: 90%

Training: 100%

Some useful resources:

www.thenatureofcities.com/2016/07/03/accessing-urban-environmental-education-opportunities-via-green-infrastructure

www.ceh.ac.uk/news-and-media/blogs/linking-local-residents-nature

www.pollinators.ie/creating-a-local-biodiversity-plan

www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol17/iss4/art45

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